

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**  
**URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** July 19, 2007

**Meeting No:** 64

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**Project:** Rash Field Redevelopment

**Phase:** Schematic

**Location:** Key Highway – Inner Harbor

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**PRESENTATION:**

Tom Balsley, Landscape Architect, described the revised proposal for Rash Field and Steve Ziger, Architect, identified the major architectural features of the plan. Modifications from the earlier plan include expansion of the garage to 600 cars, an increase in the park area, and sectional development at both the promenade and Key Highway edges. A new location for the Pride Memorial was indicated in the West Shore Park.

**COMMENTS OF THE PANEL:**

The Panel was generally supportive of the new proposal and offered the following comments:

1. Both the diagonal entry from the West Shore Park and the diagonal to the Rusty Scupper should be strengthened.
2. The paved entry area containing the carousel appears to be excessive.
3. The end containing the volley ball courts should engage the promenade to a greater extent.
4. The retention or removal of the existing trees along the water's edge of the promenade was extensively debated. The Panel appears to favor retaining these trees, but suggested that this promenade edge requires further study. The length of this portion of the promenade suggests that various forms of articulation and view corridors be investigated.
5. All Panel members agree that the program for Rash Field continues to appear too extensive. In particular the amount of space allocated to beach volley ball is excessive. In including elements in the program, consideration should be given to the transitory versus permanent nature of various elements.

6. The relocation of the Pride Memorial to a site in the West Shore Park received mixed support. Further development on this site should only be undertaken with the assurance that the adjoining building will be removed. The proposal for the Memorial, as presented, appears very preliminary and lacks a strong unified idea. While viewing the inscriptions from the walkway has some merit, the various elements are fragmented and the geometry is questionable. The designers are urged to develop a stronger integrated concept.

7. Although the design intentions for the various architectural elements are laudable and the “shade pavilions” perhaps show promise of achieving a “classical/timeless” character, the other elements appear too utilitarian. The surface connection to the underground garage and the need for toilet facilities represent difficult challenges. The Panel awaits a better design resolution.

8. Consideration should be given to art in this proposal.

In summation, the Panel considers that the design team is following an appropriate direction. However, as the comments indicate, considerable design development is required prior to a final approval. This includes the Pride Memorial.

**PANEL ACTION:**

Schematic Design approved with comments

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**Attending:**

Steve Ziger, A Stoeckle – Ziger/Snead Architects

Tom Balsley, J. Findlay – Thomas Balsley Associates

Susan Williams – STV

Pete Little – Parking Authority

Faith Deutschle, Holly Arnold - DPOB

Jay Brodie, Colin Tarbert, Peter Jackson, Shubroto Bose – BDC

Messrs. Bowden, Ramberg, Schack, Britt and Cameron – Panel

Theo Ngongang, Bob Quilter - Planning